been exaggerated. Nobody had been killed, but scores of boys had been wounded. The representatives of the students and the commander of the school asked us not to press charges against the soldiers: a trial of the culprits would only aggravate the relations between the school and the regiment. We agreed to leave this question to the judicial authorities.

We returned to the barracks after 3:00 A.M. A crowd of soldiers was assembled on the floodlighted exercise grounds. Vilenkin was shocked by their appearance and whispered to me, "You call this 'a regiment' in Petrograd? I would think it a bunch of tramps." I announced our decision. The acts of violence committed by the soldiers were inexcusable; the culprits had disgraced the regiment; we would confine ourselves to moral condemnation of the assault only because its victims had asked us not to initiate prosecution.

At first the crowd listened in sullen silence. Most of the soldiers disapproved of the attack against the students. But after I finished, angry cries burst out. Vilenkin stepped forward on the platform. His smart uniform and four crosses impressed the crowd. He began to speak somewhat nonchalantly, almost derisively. "I am chairman of the Fifth Army Committee, and when I return to the front, my comrades will ask me about what I saw in Petrograd. I want you to hear what I will tell them. A front soldier has only to look at you to know what kind of creatures you are. I am sorry I was not here with my hussars when you attacked the school. With a single squadron we would have taught you a lesson you would never have forgotten. This is what I shall report to my comrades."

He returned to his seat and I declared the meeting adjourned. The crowd was silent. I did not suspect then that only two weeks later Vilenkin would bring his men to Petrograd to beat back the Bolsheviks' onslaught against the Executive Committee.

REVERSE ON THE FRONT

A few days later the Russian offensive ended in a rout. As planned, it had been directed originally against the southern tip of the Austrian front, manned by tired and thoroughly demoralized troops. The Russian High Command expected the Austrians to shift reinforcements southward, thus weakening other parts of the line and permitting the Russians to broaden the offensive while advancing the left wing of their attacking troops. Events took another course, and very soon the whole operation became utterly chaotic.

The attack began according to plan. What Kerensky described in his telegram to the government was a wishful vision of a victory rather